

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In the Office Action mailed May 8, 2007, claims 32-46 and 48-54 were rejected over various combinations of Espiritu, WO '555 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,543,574), Saiki et al., JP '791, JP '594, Czerwinski, Irby et al. and Sumiyama.

In order to address the positions taken by the Examiner, claims 32 and 48-52 have been amended to require a loudspeaker comprising a magnetic circuit, a frame connected to the magnetic circuit, a voice coil within a magnetic gap of the magnetic circuit, and a diaphragm having an outer peripheral portion bonded to the frame via an edge, with the diaphragm also having an inner peripheral portion bonded to said voice coil, with the edge being a separate member relative to said diaphragm and bonded thereto, and with

the edge comprising a foamed layer, wherein the foamed layer is made of a foamed resin including both an independent foam and a continuous foam, and *wherein a density of the foamed resin at the inner peripheral portion of the edge is higher than a density of the foamed resin at the outer peripheral portion of the edge.*

A loudspeaker including such an edge bonding an outer peripheral of a diaphragm to a frame is not taught or suggested by any of the references relied upon by the Examiner.

In this regard, in rejecting prior claim 54, the Examiner took the position that WO '555 discloses a speaker edge that is a separate member relative to a diaphragm and bonded thereto, which edge is a foamed resin including both independent and continuous foam, with a density of the inner peripheral portion of the edge being higher than a density of the outer peripheral portion of the edge. The Examiner directed Applicants' attention to column 3, lines 24-26 and column 6, lines 53-55 of the '574 patent for support of this position.

The '574 patent has been studied in its entirety, and though thin base portions 15a, 15b, of bent portion 15 are said to have a higher density than thicker portions of the bent portion, this higher density results from skin layer 16 being substantially uniformly thick and denser than foamed layer 17. That is, thin base portions 15a and 15b of bent portion 15 each include a thin part of foamed layer 17 and a part of skin layer 16, and the thicker portions of bent portion 15 each include a thicker part of foamed layer 17 a part of the skin layer 16, wherein the foamed layer 17 is substantially constant in terms of density (please see column 6, lines 8-10). Thus, because the foamed layer has a constant density and because the skin layer is uniformly thick and denser than the foamed layer, it follows that the thin base portions 15a and 15b are more dense than thicker portions of bent portion 15 because of this specific construction and not because density of foamed resin of the foamed layer is greater at the thin base portions than at the thicker portions. Please see column 6, lines 22-55 of the '574 patent.

This deficiency is not remedied by any of the other references relied upon by the Examiner, whereby all currently pending claims are allowable over the relied-upon references either taken alone or in combination.

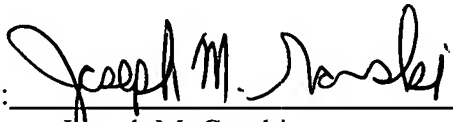
Additionally, claim 34 is believed to be patentable in its own right, because it is respectfully submitted that one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Espiritu and WO '555 with those of JP '791. In this regard, JP '791 has no teaching or suggestion of employing a rectangularly-shaped speaker that has a longer side and a shorter side, and thus is concerned with a round-shaped speaker edge, whereas Espiritu is concerned with rectangularly-shaped speaker edge. There is nothing to indicate that the teachings associated with a round-shaped speaker edge can be employed in a rectangularly-shaped speaker edge, whereby one having ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to JP '791 for guidance as to how Espiritu could be modified.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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